

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LY
SUBJ: BRITISH EVACUATION DAY CELEBRATION

1. THE MARCH 28TH SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF BRITISH EVACUATION DAY THIS YEAR WAS AGAIN CENTERED AT GAMEL ABDEL NASSER AIR BASE NEAR TOBRUK. THE KEY ACTORS, CHAIRMAN QADHAFI AND EX-PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD, WERE SUPPORTED BY A CAST OF HUNDREDS, INCLUDING THE NEW PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ABD AL-ATI AL-UBAYDI), VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SECRETARIES, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (MINUS OURSELVES AND THE BRISH OF COURSE), AND A MIDDLE LEVEL TURKISH DELEGATION.

2. JALLOUD'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS WAS BASCIALLY A REHASH OF PREVIOUS MARCH 28 SPEECHES: AMERICAN AND BRITISH BASES AS SYMBOLS OF COLONIAL REPRESSION, AND USE OF THE BASES AGAINST THE "ARAB NATION" IN THE 1956 AND 1967 WARS. JALLOUD ALSO SAID THAT THE BRITISH BASES WERE "A LAUNCHING POINT FOR A BRITISH PLAN AIMED AT DESTROYING THE LIBYAN ECONOMY THROUGH WHAT WAS CALLED

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AN "AIR DEFENSE SYTEM", THE AIM OF WHICH WAS TO ABSORB THE OIL REVENUES."

3. AS EXPECTED, THE NEW "AGE OF THE MASSES" WAS CONNECTED WITH THE EVACUATION OF BRITISH FORCES. ACCORDING TO ARNA, JALLOUD SAID THAT THE 28TH OF MARCH "HERALDED THE DAWN OF THE AGE OF THE MASSES WHO HAVE

NOW BECOME MASTER OF THE LAND."

4. QADHAFI AND HIS FORMER PRIME MINISTER MAY BE
HAVING SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NEW EAR IN THE
SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYAH. THEY
APPARENTLY NEED PUBLIC SPECTACLES TO BOOST THEIR
MORALES. FOR INSTANCE, ARNA REPORTED ON MARCH 27
THAT, "PUBLIC MARCHES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN IN TOBRUK
ON THE MAIN STREETS AND SQUARES AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY-
SIDE OF THE CITY, TO CHEER UP THE REVOLUTION AND ITS
LEADER MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI."
CARLE

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